

Interagency Coordinating Council August 8, 2013 Meeting

Present: Melanie Brizzi, Mark Davy, Dawn Downer, Donna Driscoll, Becky Haymond, Shirley Payne, Cathy Robinson, Jamie Stormont-Smith, Jim Vento

Absent: James Elicker, Paul Hyslop, Danny O'Neill

Welcome and Introductions

Convened at 10:15 am by Jim Vento, Vice Chair

Welcomed new member- Shirley Payne, IN State Dept. of Health, replacing Kim Minnear,

Announcements:

- Robyn Nelson has resigned from the ICC
- Cathy Robinson is the new Director of First Steps. Cathy has been with FS for 10 years and first encountered FS as a parent whose son received FS services.
- Cathy introduced Katie Potter, a new consultant with First Steps. Katie is new to First Steps/early intervention.

Approval of May 9, 2013 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes. Minutes approved.

Committee Reports and Updates

Committees did not meet during the ICC meeting, but some Committee chairs had updates to share

Consistency/Quality of Services

Becky Haymond shared that since the last meeting of the ICC, this committee has completed a survey of the First Step's assessment team members. There were 37 respondents. The questions on the survey were similar to the questions previously asked among First Steps Cluster staff. Becky Haymond will share the results of the survey at the next ICC meeting.

Professional Development

Jamie Stormont-Smith shared that one of the tasks of this committee is to work with the state in rewriting the Best Practices manual. The state has asked that the committee work Michael Conn-Powers, Project Director of the Quality Review project, and Christina Madsen, First Steps. It was suggested that initial efforts focus on service provision.

Community Integration

Melanie Brizzi reported that this committee has met during and outside of the ICC meeting. Its overall purpose is to explore collaboration among First Steps

and other providers and work to provide information and training that promotes collaborative efforts. Current work is focusing on increasing collaboration between First Steps and child care providers. This committee, through the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral and UTS-ProKids, is working on documents that articulate specific practices and procedures for providers to work together when children receiving First Steps services are also in child care settings. Once the document is completed, training will be established and implemented.

Jim brought up the issue of providing FS services in non-licensed child care services and concerns regarding the quality of these settings. Melanie noted that while there are minimal rules and regulations addressing non-licensed child care, the Bureau of Child is interested in gather information concerning instances in which there may be concerns or violations (e.g., adult-child ratios).

Ann Ruhmkorf, UTS-ProKids, noted that the February issue of Training Times (for First Steps providers) addressed challenges/strategies for working with child care.

Family Engagement

Nothing new to report.

Part C Coordinator's Report

Cathy Robinson provided updates to First Steps.

- OSEP has provided a response to our state's application- it is a gold star in that the state meets all federal guidelines for the past fiscal year (July 2011 through June 2012).
- The feds are looking to shift the Annual Performance Report (APR) away from compliance and focus more on results/outcomes. This effort is under discussion—no decisions have been made. Cathy expects that changes will take place during Federal Fiscal Year 2015. There was discussion among ICC members concerning how to quantify outcomes. The use of the AEPS does provide a tool measuring child improvement. It is currently used to provide a pre- and post-assessment measure of child progress. The state will be looking at how best to do this through the Quality Review process.
- FSSA secretary has tasked all agency programs to identify benchmarks or key performance indicators (KPI) that can be used to provide customer-friendly information about how well the program is doing. For First Steps, one KPI is the "timely delivery of services to children and families." First Steps will use two measures to report on this indicator: the 45-day timeline from referral to IFSP and the 30-day timeline from IFSP to services. Another indicator the Secretary asked programs to report on concerns family/consumer satisfaction with services and includes how well First Steps identifies and brings children under 1 year of age into the program. A third KPI for First Steps is looking at the transition data- what happens to children when they leave FS. Cathy noted that the Governor's office has expressed that if FSSA is able to meet its KPIs, then the Governor is willing to distribute some rainy day funds to FSSA programs.

There was discussion among ICC members concerning the KPI's and the movement from compliance to quality/outcomes in the Quality Review process. It was noted that it is likely that the federal government will still require states to report on some

compliance measures that are written into law. It was also noted that extenuating circumstances that can affect progress in meeting the KPIs (e.g., a doctor who refuses to refer infants to First Steps before 10 months) would be taken into account.

There is discussion with the DDARS Director concerning information dissemination of the KPIs with the field. DDARS may hold conversations with providers to insure they are informed of these benchmarks.

- Cathy noted that First Steps currently has one additional Consultant position to fill at the agency, and hopes this will occur soon.
- First Steps ended this last fiscal year with a \$2 million shortfall. DDARS has provided funds to address this shortfall. FS is working with the DDARS Comptroller to look at the current year budget and looking at current contracts. Cathy was asked at a recent meeting of the legislative DD Commission what funds would be needed if additional dollars were available. Cathy also shared that the RFP for the SPOE contracts is at IDOA and should be out soon.
- Michael Conn-Powers, Project Director of the Quality Review project was introduced and asked to briefly share information about that project. The project has hired two new staff who will take major responsibility for carrying out the state's quality review efforts. Those staff are Janet Ballard, former First Steps provider and state consultant; and Katie Herron, former LPCC staff to Cluster J. Michael shared that he and his team will be meeting with SPOE directors this month to discuss the quality review process and seek their suggestions.

ICC Business

Membership vacancies

A handout of the current ICC membership and list of vacancies was provided to the ICC. There are a number of vacancies on the ICC. The Standard Operating Procedures call for the positions to be appointed by the Governor. Some of the vacancies are government agency positions in which the agency could submit individuals for the Governor's approval.

Since there are three parent vacancies, it was suggested that LPCCs be asked to solicit family nominations and forward those to Danny O'Neill and Cathy Robinson. It was also suggested that, First Steps staff and ICC members reach out to parent support groups to generate interest.

The challenge is for parents of young children who have child care/school that enables them to be in Indy for full day meetings. It was noted that Easter Seals Crossroads meeting rooms have the capability for conducting distance meetings with audio/video hookups. Families (or other ICC members) could participate in ICC meetings via a web/conference call. Michael will check into that and report at the next meeting.

Cathy will coordinate with Dawn Downer to see where she left off in seeking appointments and report back at or before the next ICC meeting.

Next scheduled meeting of the ICC is November 14 at Easter Seals Crossroads

Public Comment

Ann Ruhmkorf, UTS-ProKids reported that training informing First Steps providers concerning IACCRR Inclusion specialists is now available per Dawn Downer's request at the last ICC meeting. UTS has established three trainings in partnership with Renee Kinder, IACCRR, and will take place:

- Oct 9 in South Bend,
- Oct 30 at Ferdinand, and
- Nov 20 in Indy at ProKids

Ann also noted that the recent Training Times electronic newsletter is devoted to talking about Child Outcomes and includes information about the federal outcomes and strategies for promoting those target outcomes. It also includes information about working with families to generate outcomes that reflect family concerns and priorities and reflect professional input.

ICC adjourned at 11:30 am